

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman :

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

Editors:

Kaname Tsukahara

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations*

*of the National Christian Council of Japan*

**CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4 - CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN**

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 108

July 15, 1957

## In These Pages

August 6 Named Day of Prayer Against A-H Bomb . . . . .	1
Diverse Opinions on Mission Schools Expressed. . . . .	2
Billy Graham to be Invited to Japan for Centennial. . . . .	2
Lacour Teams Go to Centers. . . . .	2
Dr. de Vries Stopped in Japan. . . . .	3
Japan Delegates to International Missionary Conference. . . . .	3
Miss Alice Cheney Completes 40 Years in Japan. . . . .	3
American Chapels Help Japanese Evangelism. . . . .	3
Contents of New Curriculum for Christian schools. . . . .	4
President of Lutheran Seminary off to World Convention. . . . .	4
American Servicemen in Japanese Prisons. . . . .	4
Japan Bible Society President Writes from Argentina. . . . .	4
Send-Off Party for 300 Overseas Scholarship Students. . . . .	5
Dr. Williamson, Westminster Choir Director Coming Again. . . . .	5
More Assistance to Atom-Bomb Victims. . . . .	5
A Memorial to the late Rev. Mitsui, Tokyo Ginza Church Pastor. . . . .	6
Church Increases Seven Fold in Ten Years. . . . .	6
4th Annual Lay Visitation Evangelism Conference in August. . . . .	6
New Pastor of Tokyo Union Church. . . . .	6
Future Cooperation Patterns Under Study by United Church. . . . .	7
Briefs. . . . .	8

## AUGUST 6 NAMED DAY OF PRAYER AGAINST A-H BOMB

Sponsored by the Japan Federation of Religions, 8:15 A. M.

August 6, hour and date of the first A-bomb explosion at Hiroshima 12 years ago, was set as a time for special prayers for the cessation of nuclear tests, and a memorial day for those killed by nuclear explosives. Temples, shrines, and churches are urged to ring their bells or beat their drums to arouse the people to continue Japan's research into the problem of how to stop the nuclear armament race.







DIVERSE OPINIONS ON MISSION SCHOOLS EXPRESSED

The Education Association of Christian Schools, as part of its research into the future of church related schools and colleges in Japan met recently with Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh of the Methodist Church, along with a representative of the Ministry of Education, a Member of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Education Research Institute of International Christian University, an Executive of the Japan Productivity Center, a Sec'y of the Economic Fraternity, Chairman of a Labor Union, and Representatives of Christian colleges to discuss general problems of mission supported schools in Japan.

No outright opposition to mission schools was expressed, but secularization has been so complete in some schools, it was said, that it is difficult to distinguish a Christian school from a non-Christian one. Some dared to mention that they would not send their children to Christian institutions because these schools today, lack an essential Christian spirit and atmosphere. On the other hand, Dr. Abe, Exec. Sec'y of the EACS said, "some people say that Christian schools are the best of all the educational institutions in Japan today."

BILLY GRAHAM TO BE INVITED TO JAPAN FOR CENTENNIAL

The NCC decided last fall to invite the world-known Evangelist, Billy Graham, to Japan for the Centennial, but it was felt the best procedure would be for all Christian groups to cooperate together in this plan. So discussions have been held with the Japan Evangelical Federation and the Shinkyo Remmei, and an agreement was reached in early July to organize an Executive Planning Committee with 10 members on it from the NCC and 10 from the Evangelical Federation. A tentative schedule provides for 8 big evangelistic rallies over Japan during a six week's stay.

LACOUR TEAMS GO TO CENTERS

Arriving in Japan July 4, the 23 Ministers and 7 wives of the Lacour Evangelism Group have already gone to their respective places of assignment for the two months of July and August. This is the fourth year for the experiment. 23 Centers have been developed in the past 3 years, and 8 of these already have plans made for the building of a church. 4 have already gone to self-support since the project began in 1954.







### DR. DE VRIES STOPPED IN JAPAN

Dr. de Vries, Director of the Institute of Social Studies, WCC, (also a Dutch Director of the Institute of Social Science, and Chairman of the World Bank Planning Board) arrived in Japan in early July via SAS on his way to the U.S.A. to attend the WCC Central Committee meeting at Yale University. While here he served as Resource Leader of a Karuizawa Conference called by the NCC to study "Rapid Social Changes in Southeast Asia and Responsibility of Japanese Christians."

### JAPAN DELEGATES TO INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

To be held in the newly independent country of Ghana in South Africa this winter from Dec. 28-Jan. 10, the International Missionary Conference has as its theme "Christian Evangelism at This Time". It is the first of its kind ever to be held in Africa. Two Japanese delegates, Mr. Kaname Tsukahara and Mr. Tomio Muto have been chosen to represent the Japan National Christian Council.

### MISS ALICE CHENEY COMPLETES 40 YEARS IN JAPAN

Scheduled to leave on July 30 for furlough and retirement another "old hand", Miss Alice Cheney, recipient of the 5th Order of the Sacred Treasury, and with a farewell interview with the Empress to remember, will further deplete the ranks of Missionary veterans in Japan. She came here in 1915 at the age of 28 as a Missionary of the Methodist Church and has taught English and Bible at Aoyama Gakuin for over 40 years. At one time she was Assistant Dean of the Theological Department. During World War II Miss Cheney served the Japanese confined in a detention camp in the U.S..

### AMERICAN CHAPELS HELP JAPANESE EVANGELISM

The benevolent giving of just one Service Chapel, the Protestant Chapel at Yokosuka Naval Base, is over \$10,000 a year - all of it channelled into the strengthening or spreading of Japanese Christianity. Of the above amount, this Chapel gives each month \$100 to the Yokosuka Protestant school, \$100 to the Yokosuka Christian Community Center, and \$100 directly to the United Church of Christ in Japan. The newest benevolent project of this Chapel is assisting in the establishment of a YMCA in Yokosuka.







CONTENTS OF NEW CURRICULUM FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

For the past year and a half a Special Committee of the Education Association of Christian Schools in Japan has been working on a new curriculum for Christian education in church related Junior and Senior High Schools. The new Junior High courses include Introduction to Christianity, Teachings of the Old Testament and Teachings of the New Testament. The Senior High level curriculum is divided into "A" and "B" courses in order to accommodate students who may come from non-Christian schools. Senior High Courses include Introduction to the Bible, Development of the Church, Christianity and Life, Essentials of Christianity, Religion of the Bible, the Bible and Life and the Bible and the World.

PRESIDENT OF LUTHERAN SEMINARY OFF TO WORLD CONVENTION

Rev. Sennen Kishi, President of the Lutheran Seminary in Tokyo, will represent Japan Lutheran churches at the Lutheran World Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., U.S.A., from Aug. 15-25. Accompanying him will be Mr. A. Eto, Asst. Principal of Kyushu Jogakuin. Held every 5 years, over 400 delegates are expected. Rev. Kishi will address the Convention on the subject "Freedom in Christ".

AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN JAPANESE PRISONS

As of June 30 there were only 34 American servicemen in Japanese Prisons, 1 of them at Fuchu, the others in a prison near Yokosuka. Strangely enough, although the prison is in Yokosuka, a large Naval Base, no Navy personnel are among the prisoners.

The Marines have the fewest confined with 1, while the Air Force comes next with 8 and the Army has the highest number, 25. Prisoners are visited at least twice weekly by U.S. Service Chaplains who provide worship services, occasional movies and counseling service.

JAPAN BIBLE SOCIETY PRESIDENT WRITES FROM ARGENTINA

Rev. Miyakoda writes a glowing report of the activities of Mr. Tsutomu Tani, Pastor of an Argentine Church. Evangelism reaches out to some 300 households, and over 500,000 Protestants are in the country. Rev. Miyakoda believes that "the United Church in Japan to which Mr. Tani looks for leadership ought to extend more cooperation to the Christians in Argentina."







SEND-OFF PARTY FOR 300 OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

Late in June under the auspices of the Japan-American Society, and in cooperation with several American firms and interested organization, 300 overseas scholarship students enrolled in American and Canadian colleges and universities this fall, were featured with a gala send off party. Embassy officials and representative from the Japan Foreign Office attended.

The 300 include 13 United Church of Christ related students. Those going to Canada left on the Hikawa Maru July 3, those bound for the U.S. will depart Aug. 6 on the President Wilson. One, Professor S. Takagi, of Meiji Gakuin, a Fulbright exchange, will go by plane.

DR. WILLIAMSON, WESTMINSTER CHOIR DIRECTOR COMING AGAIN

Following the very successful tour of the Westminster Choir in Japan last summer, the Committee on the Hymnal has asked the Choir Director, Dr. J. F. Williamson, to return this summer to lead choir training courses and seminars in 3 places, Sendai (Aug. 19-23), Koyasan in Wakayama Prefecture (Aug. 27-30) and Karuizawa (Sept. 2-6). Applications will be received by the Committee to the end of July. Training will include vocalization, chorus rehearsal, choir organization, and methods of conducting, as well as practice in playing pipe, reed, and electric organs (this latter at Sendai only).

MORE ASSISTANCE TO ATOM-BOMB VICTIMS

The International Christian Service Association, Japanese branch of the Social Work Dep't of the World Council of Churches, which has been helping the poor and needy in Japan for quite some time, will take on additional responsibility, along with the Social Problems Committee of the National Christian Council, for the establishment of a Social Workers Corporation to render help to the atomic-bomb victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is said that over 100,000 who had been exposed to radiation are still living. Many of these are still in great need of medical attention, twelve years later. Some hesitate to have it known that they are radiation victims for this jeopardizes marriage possibilities. This new organization will work through Churches and Christian institutions to contact those in need of help, extend relief goods and financial assistance, do case work, and offer vocational training. Use of the Hiroshima YMCA and Christian Social Building as headquarters is being negotiated, and budget of ¥2,600,000 has been set for 3 years program.







A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. MITSUI, TOKYO GINZA CHURCH PASTOR

The large Ginza Church in down-town Tokyo recently held a "one-year-after" memorial service for the late Rev. Isamu Mitsui, well-known Pastor of the Church, and as a tangible expression of respect and concern for his family, presented the widow and the children with over ¥364,000 (\$1000). The family used the gift to purchase a home. A son, Rev. Takashi Mitsui, presently Associate Pastor of Kamata Church in Tokyo, has been chosen one of two Japanese Pastors to be despatched as Fraternal Workers to the United Church of Canada this fall.

CHURCH INCREASES SEVEN FOLD IN TEN YEARS

In Osaka in southern Japan is Tamaide Church which increased its strength nearly 7 times in 10 years - from a membership of less than 30 to one today of 190, and with an increase of average weekly attendance from 26-92. Annual offering now is over ¥800,000.

4TH ANNUAL LAY VISITATION EVANGELISM CONFERENCE IN AUGUST

The 4th Annual Lay Visitation Evangelism Conference will be held at Hakone near Mt. Fuji, Aug. 6, 7 and 8, at the Sounkaku hotel. Over 300 delegates from all areas of Japan are expected to attend. Cost is ¥1,100 for the 3 days.

NEW PASTOR OF TOKYO UNION CHURCH

The Rev. Howard D. Haines, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Middletown, N.Y., is expected to arrive by ship in Japan Sept. 10 to become the new Pastor of Tokyo Union Church. He will replace the Rev. Galen Russell, who has been Pastor since 1953. Two sons, ages 10 and 14, and Mrs. Haines will compose the family group, with another son enrolled in Clarkson College of Technology in the States. The Rev. Haines, son of a business man of Methodist and Quaker background, and with a mother who was the daughter of a Congregational Minister, is a graduate of the University of Penna. and Union Theological Seminary in N.Y.C. Mrs. Haines is a graduate of Vassar College, with a year of graduate study in the New York School of Social Work. The Rev. Haines' sister is currently teaching in Tsuda College, a special school of English Language and Literature in Tokyo.







FUTURE COOPERATION PATTERNS UNDER STUDY BY UNITED CHURCH

On July 1 and 2 at Aoyama Gakuin the Special Committee set up by the Council of Cooperation to consider the whole field of past and future patterns of cooperation between the Christian Church in Japan and the Mission Boards in North America met with 3 Board Secretaries here in Japan at the time, Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh, Dr. John C. Smith, and Miss Margaret Billingsley, in unofficial sessions. The meeting, attended by Missionaries and various Leaders of the United Church was called to "probe the field" and to make an attempt to define the central problems. This was in the nature of a preliminary survey in preparation for a joint - Japan Secretarial Deputation coming from the IBC Boards in 1958 to explore the matter then in detail and together with the United Church officials work out the pattern for the future.

Delineated by this preliminary meeting as the central areas to receive attention are the following:

- 1) How achieve a more fruitful relationships between the churches and the Christian schools in terms of a greater cooperative Christian impact upon the masses in Japan?
- 2) What ought to be the types of foreign aid to be requested in the future?
- 3) What ought to be the patterns or motions toward complete self support on the part of the church and of the schools? What effective uses of foreign aid can a younger church still make without styming its own maturity or stunting its own inner growth?
- 4) What ought to be the future cooperative strategy to pursue in order to strengthen Christian Social Work Institutions and Social Welfare Projects in Japan?
- 5) What ought to be the missionary personnel requests of the future, if any, and what types of missionaries are needed and desired?

Briefs

Dr. and Mrs. Chandran from the Bangalore Theological Seminary in South India have departed for the U.S. after a short stop in Japan.

- - - -

Rev. Hal Shorrocks and family of Japan Church World Service arrived back in Japan July 3 after a short furlough in the U.S..







Briefs

At a training meeting for blind Christians in late July 150 representatives of all ages and sex are expected to gather with their escorts from every area of Japan to discuss for 3 days the subject, "A Blind Christian's Life in a Pagan Society."

- - - -

Rev. Shoji Gennosuke of the Episcopal Church in the Olympic Diocesis in Washington, U.S.A. having served for 50 years the Japanese who visit or live in the United States and Canada, "came back home" after 35 years, as the personal guest of Bishop Yashiro, well-known leader of the Episcopal church in Japan. He is expected to stay until November.



